

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Final Office Action dated February 1, 2007 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed. Applicants appreciate the indication by the Examiner that claim 3 is allowed.

Claims 2, 18, 20, and 21 are rejected by the Examiner. With this response, claims 2, 18 and 21 are amended. Claims 2, 3, 18, 20, and 21 remain pending in this application with claims 8-16 having been withdrawn from consideration.

In the Office Action, claims 2, 18, 20, and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Akahira (US Patent 6,471,352) in view Ueno (JP 09-166783) further in view of Ben-Zur (US Published Application No. 2005/0179708). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 2 and 18, 20, and 21 and request reconsideration.

Claim 2 has been amended to recite a method for forming an alignment layer having a combination of features including, “wherein the shift distance of the alignment material dropping unit is smaller than a distance between the holes.” Applicants submit that this combination of features has been identified by the Examiner as being allowable over Akahira, Ueno, and Ben-Zur. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 2 is allowable at least for this reason over Akahira, Ueno and Ben-Zur.

Claims 18, 20 and 21 each recite a method of forming an alignment layer of a liquid crystal display device having a combination of features including “wherein dropping the second alignment material includes shifting the alignment material dropping unit along a second side opposite the first side of the substrate by a predetermined distance, and wherein the predetermined distance is smaller than a distance between the plurality of holes”. Examiner remarks regarding claim 3 acknowledge that Akahira, Ueno, and Ben-Zur do not teach or suggest at least “wherein the shift distance of the alignment material dropping unit is smaller than a distance between the holes.” Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 18, 20, and 21 are each allowable over Akahira, Ueno and Ben-Zur.

Applicants believe that the above amendments and remarks place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. *A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.*

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: April 30, 2007

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